in the State. Some of these recoveries made from persons who have affiliation with terrorist outfits including Jaish-e-Mohammad (JEM). It is a fact that the terrorists especially foreign mercenaries of LET and JEM are indulging in smuggling of narcotic substances and drugs in order to sustain themselves in the State. Besides, such drugs are also being consumed by these terrorists.

In one such instance of 8th September 2003, the security forces during an encounter and search operation in District Kupwara, recovered some quantity of brown sugar besides arms and ammunition from a slain terrorist.

The police have registered 15 cases under relevant Sections of Law on this account during the month of September.

Pakistan's complicity in hijacking of IC-814

1590. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that new facts have come to light wherein Pakistan's complicity in hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 from Kathmandu to Delhi on 24th December, 1999 has been established positively;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to make this fact known to the international community; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) During the investigation of the case pertaining of hijacking of IC-814 from Kathmandu on 24th December, 1999, it was disclosed that all the five hijackers were Pakistani nationals. It was also disclosed that two other Pakistanis participated in the criminal conspiracy to hijack this aircraft. Accused Abdul Latif, who is in judicial custody had also disclosed that he was trained in Pakistan. The main objective of hijacking was release of Maulana Masood Azhar from Indian Jail. All the seven Pakistani accused persons against whom charge sheet was laid by the CBI are absconding.

(c) and (d) Government have been continuously apprising the international community about Pakistan's continued support and sponsorship of terrorism against India.

Spurious scotch in Delhi

1591. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scotch whisky is available in the Capital at cheaper rate than the price-tags bearing duty-paid tariff and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Police had recently raided an illegal factory in R.K. Puram which was minting money by manufacturing spurious scotch sealed with labels bearing the names of reputed brands; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and how many persons have been arrested in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In a search conducted on 06.10.2003 in the area of R.K. Ruram, Delhi Police seized a huge quantity of spurious scotch of various brands along with 5000 bottle caps and corks and 300 wrappers and arrested three persons.

Keeping media persons away from the site of encounter

1592. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plan to instruct Police and Army to restrict the presence of News crews close to the places where terrorist combing operation or encounter operations take place in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the presence of News crews at such locations create threat of security and safety of news media persons; and